



# Feeding the Future

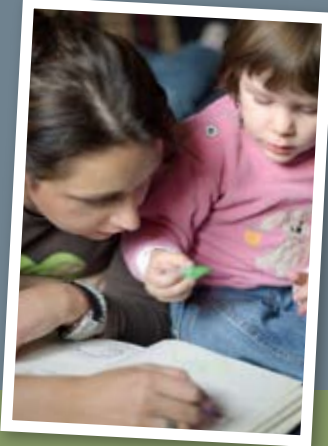
## School Lunches

Over 15% of Minnesota’s adolescents are obese. Poor nutrition does more than put kids at risk for adult health disorders, it also lessens their ability to concentrate in class.

Congressman Walz is committed to ensuring that the Farm Bill gives school districts the ability to purchase nutritious commodities for the School Lunch Program from locally-sourced producers. Allowing Minnesota school children to eat Minnesota-grown farm products is an A+ idea.

## Fighting Poverty

For over 140,000 Minnesota children who are living in poverty, the Farm Bill’s nutrition programs provide a crucial source of food. The Farm Bill plays a critical role in funding Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) and the Food Support Program to give struggling families a helping hand up.



## Congressman Tim Walz wants to hear from you!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive future updates on the farm bill or my other activities? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Which of these topics interest you? *(Please check all that apply to you)*

- ☐ The farm safety net
- ☐ Rural schools
- ☐ Rural hospitals
- ☐ Rural transportation
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Renewable Energy

What do you want Congressman Tim Walz to know?

From the field to the grocery aisle:

## Did you know...

- The average Minnesota farmer produces enough food to feed 129 people.
- Consumers pay \$3.83 for a box of cereal, but the farmer only makes 7 cents.
- One in five Minnesota workers has a job that is directly or indirectly related to agriculture.
- Minnesota’s agricultural production and processing facilities generate over \$55 billion in economic activity.

*(Sources: Minnesota Department of Agriculture, National Farmers Union)*

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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

*Official Business*

M.C.

Presorted Standard

Renewable Energy  
Conservation  
Children’s Nutrition  
School Lunches  
Food Stamps  
Rural Development

## What do these things have in common?

**Congressman Tim Walz** reports on the far-reaching impacts of the Farm Bill and invites you to make your voice heard.



# The Far-Reaching Impact of The 2007 Farm Bill

Make your voice heard as a major national policy is being rewritten.



## A MESSAGE FROM CONGRESSMAN TIM WALZ ON THE 2007 FARM BILL

Dear Neighbor,

This year the House Agriculture Committee — on which I proudly serve alongside fellow Minnesotan and Chairman, Collin Peterson — will write a new farm bill.

Don't let the name mislead you: the Farm Bill is about much more than just farm payments. This legislation also lays out our country's priorities for conservation, rural development, renewable energy and nutrition programs like the School Lunch Program. In fact, no other piece of legislation Congress will consider this year has as much impact on Southern Minnesota as the Farm Bill.

From my seat on the Agriculture Committee, I'll have the chance to play a key role in drafting this legislation and I want to hear your thoughts. I'm holding meetings throughout Southern Minnesota to receive input about the Farm Bill. I want to take your ideas and suggestions and turn them into actions to help our farm and ranch families, increase conservation and promote renewable sources of energy.

I hope you will join us at a Farm Bill Forum in your community. I also encourage you to take a moment to fill out the response card to the right, to let me know your priorities as Congress renews our commitment to a safe and stable food supply, as well as to the family farmers and ranchers who keep America fed.

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Walz  
Member of Congress



## Maintaining the Farm Safety Net

The Farm Bill is the single most important piece of legislation for spurring rural development, economic growth and jobs, and improving the quality of life in rural communities. Much of rural America's prosperity is linked to the economic vitality of our farm and ranch families.

Farming is a risky business: Every day, farmers face challenges from volatile weather, low commodity prices and heavily-subsidized foreign competitors. That's why Congressman Walz is dedicated to maintaining a strong safety net to help family farmers bridge the tough years of natural disasters or low prices.

Congressman Walz believes it's a mistake to try to balance the federal budget on the backs of our farmers and ranchers, and he will oppose the President's call to cut the farm safety net by \$4.5 billion over the next ten years.

## Helping America Achieve Energy Independence

Rural America is uniquely positioned to lead us beyond a petroleum-based economy and make our dependence on foreign oil a thing of the past. By capturing wind energy and using commodities grown on America's family farms in innovative new ways, we can produce clean and efficient power, transportation fuels, and a new generation of bio-based products.



Congressman Tim Walz is a leader in promoting renewable energy — such as ethanol, biodiesel and wind power — and he will work to provide new incentives in the 2007 Farm Bill to encourage the development and use of renewable energy.

Instead of spending a billion dollars a day buying oil from hostile countries, we can be creating good paying jobs here at home and lowering the local tax burden. In 2006, Pipestone and Murray Counties generated \$800 million in tax revenue from wind turbines, 80 percent of which returned to the local community to reduce taxes for local residents.



## Preserving Minnesota's Outdoor Way of Life

The Conservation Security Program promotes good stewardship on working farmland and provides farmers and ranchers with incentives to adopt conservation practices that protect water quality, conserve soil, and promote wildlife habitat. Congressman Walz supports expanding the Conservation Security Program by providing additional funding and allowing farmers to sign-up on a continuous basis...instead of waiting for years before they can enroll their farmland.

## Helping Rural Communities Thrive

The Farm Bill provides funding for critical rural infrastructure, such as rural hospitals and healthcare facilities. In the 2007 Farm Bill, Congressman Walz will make it a priority to ensure that these important facilities receive the funding they need to remain open and continue to serve our rural communities.

Southern Minnesota receives over 50% of the Rural Development dollars for the entire state of Minnesota. Since 2001, we've used federal funds to build up our rural communities and create new education and work opportunities.

The highlights include:

**\$283 million** in grants and direct loans to help single families achieve homeownership.

**\$35 million** in community program loans for rural water systems and infrastructure.

**\$12 million** in rural business grants to encourage renewable energy production and rural enterprise.

**\$5 million** in loans to supply rural Minnesotans with broadband internet.

(Partial list only)

**TOTAL:**  
**\$398 million**  
in Rural Development for Southern Minnesota

## Walz Hears Farm Bill Ideas

Minnesota Public Radio, February 21, 2007

Farm program supporters say subsidy benefits reach far beyond the individual producers. Chad Cummings lives in the small town of Brewster. The banker and city council member told Walz farm subsidies are a major portion of the farm economy. "I would ask for your support in helping the people that basically live here, work here and make the money here," says Cummings. "That's how we live. We're all farm related no matter if you own a tractor or not."

## Join Congressman Tim Walz to share ideas on the 2007 Farm Bill.

Check the calendar to see when the next Farm Bill Forum is happening in your area **or fill out the response card provided and drop it in the mail today.**

**Monday, April 2, 2007**  
**Slayton Farm Bill & Energy Meeting** at 4 p.m.  
**Location:** Pizza Ranch, 2306 Broadway Avenue

**Wednesday, April 4, 2007**  
**Austin Farm Bill Meeting** at 3 p.m.  
**Location:** Elks Lodge, 102 1st Avenue Northeast

**Monday, April 9, 2007**  
**Fairmont Farm Bill Meeting** at 10 a.m.  
**Location:** Red Rock Center, 222 East Blue Earth Avenue

**Albert Lea Farm Bill Meeting** at 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Freeborn / Mower Cooperative Services Headquarters, Community Room, 2501 Main Street East

**Tuesday, April 10, 2007**  
**New Ulm Farm Bill Meeting** at 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Martin Luther College – Luther Student Center, Cafeteria, 1995 Luther Court

**Wednesday, April 11, 2007**  
**Jackson Farm Bill Meeting** at 10 a.m.  
**Location:** Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Room Y101

**Blue Earth Farm Bill Meeting** at 2 p.m.  
**Location:** Town and Country Plaza – Ag Center Building, 415 South Grove Street (Hwy 169)

**Friday, April 13, 2007**  
**Plainview Farm Bill Meeting** at 11:00 a.m.  
**Location:** St. Joachim's Church School, 900 West Broadway

**Saturday, April 14, 2007**  
**St. James Farm Bill Meeting** at 3:00 p.m.  
**Location:** St. James Community Center Theater, 505 1st Avenue

(Detach Here)

**Office of Congressman Tim Walz**  
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PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE